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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1141
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 3365
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1322

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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/CARC

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ACTION REQUEST: RECONVENING U.S.-AZERBAIJANI
SECURITY ASSISTANCE DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 127069

1 (SBU) This is an action request. See paragraph 2.

¶2. (SBU) Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has suggested to reconvene the U.S.-Azerbaijan Security Assistance Dialogue this summer, and requested that the venue be shifted from Baku to Washington. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Araz Azimov, who heads Azerbaijan's inter-agency team, recommends that the two sides meet in July. Embassy requests Department to notify U.S. Government departments and agencies and propose dates for the dialogue, as well as identify a State Department venue.

¶3. (SBU) The Security Assistance Dialogue teams last met in Washington in 2007. Last summer, a U.S. Government delegation, led by then-Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Dan Fata, planned to travel to Baku for a subsequent round of talks. Precise dates were not agreed upon, however, and the dialogue was delayed. DepFonMin Azimov now recognizes that a follow up session is overdue, and thus has suggested reconvening. He strongly urges the U.S. side to host the event in Washington, as he believes he would be able to assemble a strong GOAJ team that would be eager to meet new officials in the Obama Administration. Embassy concurs with this suggestion.

4 (SBU) At Embassy Baku, the following U.S. Government agencies are active with security assistance programs: Office of Defense Cooperation, Defense Attache Office, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Department of Energy Second Line of Defense, Export Control and Border Services (EXBS) and U.S. Coast Guard.

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